

Michigan, and mourn his passing. Staff Sergeant Dreasky proudly served in the 1st Battalion, 119th Field Artillery Regiment, of the Army National Guard in Lansing, Michigan, and he devoted his life to serving our country.

As a student at Walled Lake Western High School, he enjoyed studying military history and playing football, but dreamed of serving his country as a soldier. Despite being a versatile athlete who wrestled, ran track, sky dived and taught martial arts, Staff Sergeant Dreasky suffered a knee injury, which threatened to prevent him from serving in the military.

In March of 2000, Staff Sergeant Dreasky married his best friend, Mandy, who served in the United States Army. When Mandy was deployed to Iraq in 2003, Staff Sergeant Dreasky transported members of her unit to Wisconsin for training and helped loved ones communicate with soldiers overseas. Finally, after writing to elected officials about his desire to enlist, he was able to join the National Guard in June of 2003.

After basic training, Staff Sergeant Dreasky served in Cuba before voluntarily deploying to Iraq for Operation Iraqi Freedom. On November 21, 2005, an improvised explosive device detonated near his military vehicle near Habbaniyah, Iraq. He sustained severe injuries and was transported to the burn center at Brooke Army Medical Center in Fort Sam Houston, Texas, for treatment.

Wrapped in medical bandages and unable to stand, he struggled to salute President George W. Bush, who visited him in the hospital. With his father, Roger; mother, Cheryl; sister, Dawn; and Mandy by his side, Staff Sergeant Dreasky never lost his patriotism.

For 8 months, Staff Sergeant Dreasky fought courageously for his life, but ultimately passed away on July 10, 2006. His legendary commitment to his family, community, and country is a testament to his enduring and selfless love. Staff Sergeant Dreasky is remembered as an inspiration to the citizens of Michigan, a soldier of unyielding dedication and a hero. He will be sorely missed.

Mr. Speaker, during his 31 years, Staff Sergeant Dreasky enriched the lives of everyone around him. Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in mourning his passing and honoring his contributions to our community and our country.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EMANUEL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. EMANUEL addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

ENERGY INDEPENDENCE

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to claim Mr. EMANUEL's time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentlewoman from Ohio is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to point out that last Friday, the New York Times had an ad on the editorial page, the title of which was "True Energy Security," and it says as a sub-headline, "Interdependence is the Surest Means of Protecting Against Energy Shocks." This ad was paid for by the largest energy company in the world, ExxonMobil.

I called the New York Times to figure out how much money ExxonMobil had to pay for an ad in that newspaper to tell us how wonderful it is that they are charging us such high prices and that America is truly dependent on imported fuel. Believe it or not, that ad cost \$44,037.

I started to calculate if I gave several people in my district \$20 gas coupons based on the \$44,037 that they spent just on that ad in that one newspaper to try to get into our minds and turn around in our heads what is actually happening and make us think they are doing us a favor, I could have over 2,000 families in my district be able to save money through those coupons.

This company made so much money last year, it blew the lid off Wall Street. They made the largest profits in the history of the New York stock market, billions and billions and billions of dollars. And are they lowering gas prices for our people? Never. They are raising them. And then they are telling us we should feel good about it.

In fact, the ad says that the answer to energy security is interdependence. I wonder how much they had to pay a firm on Madison Avenue to invent that word? Because our country was not founded on interdependence on oil regimes. Our country was founded on independence. Independence, not interdependence.

If you look at what is happening with our imports of petroleum, they now consume the largest share of our trade deficit with the world. Two-thirds to three-quarters of the gasoline you buy comes from petroleum that was refined from imports. That means your money, your hardearned money, is going somewhere, in the case of ExxonMobil we are talking about Saudi Arabia. And if we really look here at the last 20 years, every single year the amount of imported petroleum has gone up, to the point where now, in 2006, it is about three-quarters.

America has lost her independence. Independence.

I am giving this Special Order tonight because I want the American people to think about what it will take to become independent again; what it will take on the part of the leadership of the President of our country, this Congress, to help move us to a new energy age.

In rural America, we know there are new biofuels on the horizon. Why isn't our government helping our butanol,

our ethanol, our biodiesel producers, to guarantee their investment for 30 years, as we did when we set up rural electric and rural telephone across this country, so that small farmers can band together and have some sense that some big company like Exxon isn't going to come in and squash them if they try to put a gas pump in a town and then ExxonMobil, who is so much bigger, can come in and put a gas pump right next to them, cut the price in half, because there is no competition by these oil cartels?

We need this government to help the American people transition to a new energy age. So many farmers across this country can't raise the security, they can't raise the investment dollars in and of themselves. The hurdle is too high. We need to have the kind of leadership Franklin Roosevelt gave us when we set up rural telephone and rural electric across this country and have a new rural energy initiative that would help America just in that sector modernize quickly, in the area of hydrogen fuels, in the area of new types of turbines.

My goodness, we invest so much money in research across this government, that ought to be at the top of everyone's priority list. Yet the Secretary of Defense said before our committee, well, Congresswoman, energy independence isn't my job.

What a wrong answer that was. The Department of Defense buys more petroleum and more imported fuel than any other organization in this country, public or private. The Department of Defense ought to be leading America into energy independence again and unhook us from our dependence on oil regimes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. JONES of North Carolina addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

IS AMERICA BECOMING ANOTHER ROME?

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take the time of the gentleman from North Carolina.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, this Hall that we work in every day is lined with 23 marble busts of great lawgivers that influenced American law. We have Hammurabi, Gaius, Justinian, Napoleon and, of course, Moses over here in the very center. But one of those people you won't see up there is Caesar Flavius Valens.

Let me take you back 1,642 years, Mr. Speaker, and let's talk about a little bit of history. Caesar Valens controlled